

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A screening method of identifying a compound for treating hepatitis, the method comprising:

obtaining a first liver slice from a subject having hepatitis;

incubating the first liver slice in a medium containing a compound; and

determining the replication level of a hepatitis virus in the first liver slice,

wherein the compound is effective in treating hepatitis if the replication level of the hepatitis virus is lower than that determined in the same manner from a second liver slice except that the second liver slice is incubated in a medium free of the compound.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the replication level of the hepatitis virus is based on the replication rate of the hepatitis virus.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the replication level of the hepatitis virus is based on the genome level of the hepatitis virus.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the replication level of the hepatitis virus is based on the protein level of the hepatitis virus.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the hepatitis virus is a hepatitis C virus, hepatitis B virus, hepatitis D virus, or GB virus.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the replication level of the hepatitis virus is based on the replication rate of the hepatitis virus.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein the replication level of the hepatitis virus is based on the genome level of the hepatitis virus.

8. The method of claim 5, wherein the replication level of the hepatitis virus is based on the protein level of the hepatitis virus.

9. The method of claim 5, wherein the hepatitis virus is a hepatitis C virus,

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the replication level of the hepatitis virus is based on the replication rate of the hepatitis virus.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein the replication level of the hepatitis virus is based on the genome level of the hepatitis virus.

12. The method of claim 9, wherein the replication level of the hepatitis virus is based on the protein level of the hepatitis virus.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the protein level is the level of the core protein, E1 protein, E2 protein, p7 protein, NS3 protein, NS4A protein, NS4B protein, NS5A protein, NS5B protein, or F protein of the hepatitis C virus.

14. A method of evaluating responsiveness of a subject having hepatitis to a drug, the method comprising:

obtaining a first liver slice from a subject having hepatitis;

incubating the first liver slice in a medium containing a drug; and

determining the replication level of a hepatitis virus in the first liver slice,

wherein the subject is determined to be responsive to the drug if the replication level of the hepatitis virus is lower than that determined in the same manner from a second liver slice except that the second liver slice is incubated in a medium free of drug.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the replication level of the hepatitis virus is based on the replication rate of the hepatitis virus.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein the replication level of the hepatitis virus is based on the genome level of the hepatitis virus.

17. The method of claim 14, wherein the replication level of the hepatitis virus is based on the protein level of the hepatitis virus.

18. The method of claim 14, wherein the hepatitis virus is a hepatitis C virus, hepatitis B virus, hepatitis D virus, or GB virus.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the replication level of the hepatitis virus is based on the replication rate of the hepatitis virus.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein the replication level of the hepatitis virus is based on the genome level of the hepatitis virus.

21. The method of claim 18, wherein the replication level of the hepatitis virus is based on the protein level of the hepatitis virus.

22. The method of claim 18, wherein the hepatitis virus is a hepatitis C virus,

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the replication level of the hepatitis virus is based on the replication rate of the hepatitis virus.

24. The method of claim 22, wherein the replication level of the hepatitis virus is based on the genome level of the hepatitis virus.

25. The method of claim 22, wherein the replication level of the hepatitis virus is based on the protein level of the hepatitis virus.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein the protein level is the level of the core protein, E1 protein, E2 protein, p7 protein, NS3 protein, NS4A protein, NS4B protein, NS5A protein, NS5B protein, or F protein of the hepatitis C virus.